(b) what are the welfare schemes that have been modified and to what extent these plans will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The National Health Policy *inter-alia* envisaged achieving a Birth Rate of 21 per thousand population by the end of 2000 A.D. According to the Seventh Five Year Plan, a birth rate of 29.1 per thousand population is aimed by the end of the Plan period i.e. in 1990.

The Family Welfare Programme during the 7th Plan have a well defined strategy. The strategy emphasises on optimal use of infrastructure created; involvement of voluntary organisations; improving quality of services, enhancing child survival; stregthening of information, education and communication; promotion of temporary contraceptive methods; incentives for terminal methods etc. No major change in the strategy is contemplated at present.

Microlevel planning for utilisation of renewable resources

445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has recommended the launching of an experimental five year programme of application of Science and Technology to Microlevel planning for utilisation of renewable resources for a series of micro-catchments representing the different logical zones of the country;

(b) if so, what are the other main features of the report submitted by the Council; and

(c) the total amount likely to be involved and to what extent the programme has been examined by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the report are:

Council considers good management of our endowment of natural resources of soil, water, vegetation, livestock and gentic diversity as one of the most significant challenges before the nation. Our development efforts have tended to stress intensification of resource use, tne consequences of which have been disastrous; large scale soil erosion, siltation, floods and droughts, water logging and salination, lowering of ground water table, gradual depletion of fertility of fields, extensive deforestation and overgrazing by cattles and goats. Since the problems are highly location specific it is proposed that these could be solved by a cooperative endeavour involving scientific and technical experts, development planners, local educational institutions and other organisations such as Yuvak and mahila mandals and mandal panchayats

(c) The report has envisaged a budget of Rs. 50 crore for the programme. However, Government is expected to request the State Science and Technology Councils to formulate the proposals for their respective States in the light of recommendations of the report.

setting up of a task force to promote the use of electronics

446. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact the Department of Electronics has constituted a ten Member task force to promote the use of electronics in the basic health care of rural masses;

(b) if so, what will be tne main features of the task force; and

(c) whether any concrete programme has been formulated and by what time the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF